GOVERNANCE

Purpose

As a municipal government, the Village's purpose is to

- Provide appropriate municipal services to benefit all residents especially providing for traffic flow, public land management, and environmental stewardship;
- Provide appropriate government oversight to protect individual landowner's and resident's rights as well as act in the best interest of the Village as a whole;
- Enact legislation in order to provide services needed;
- Manage public finances in a responsible, ethical, and fiscally prudent fashion; and,
- Encourage public involvement and function in an honest, ethical, and transparent fashion abiding by applicable sunshine laws.

Municipal corporations in Ohio are granted broad authority under *Article XIII* of the *Constitution* of the State of Ohio, Ohio Revised Code §715.01, Ohio Revised Code §717.01, and various other statutes depending upon the organization of the municipal corporation. This municipal corporation has the right to do the following:

- exercise all powers of local self government and to adopt and enforce within its limits such local police, sanitary and other similar regulations as are not in conflict with the general laws of the State of Ohio;
- to acquire, hold and manage property and make any rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution required to fully carry out the terms of any provision of conveyance or lease;
- to construct or equip buildings;
- to construct public halls, offices, and municipal service buildings;
- to construct sewers, sewage disposal works, and ditches;
- to open, construct, widen and improve any street or highway; and,
- to provide for rules and regulations consistent with the enforcement and regulation of the above.

This municipal corporation is specifically granted the authority to plan for the municipality pursuant to the provisions of *Ohio Revised Code* §713.01.

Governing Structure

Council

Galena currently has one voting precinct. The Village's current governance structure includes an elected six-member Council and an elected Mayor. The Council appoints committee members and representatives as liaisons to external entities. They annually appoint a public service director, zoning inspector and property maintenance inspector which is in one job description.

They also appoint five other support employees. The clerk/fiscal officer was previously elected, but the fiscal officer is now an annually appointed staff member.

A Zoning and Planning Commission is comprised of three residents who are appointed to three-year staggered terms, a Council representative appointed annually, the Mayor who serves as chairman, and a clerk appointed annually. The commission hears and decides appeals; authorizes variances; grants conditional use zoning permits; and, reviews proposed master plan and zoning code amendments and planned district proposals and makes recommendations on them to Council.

External Relations

The Village currently serves as a liaison and facilitator with the Greater Galena Civic Association (GGCA), the Galena area's local chamber of commerce. The Village is also a member of the Sunbury Big Walnut Chamber of Commerce and the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission.

The Village has had a strong, successful partnership with the Delaware County Friends of the Trail and the Ohio to Erie Trail organizations. This partnership continues to successfully establish a trail system through Galena as part of the Ohio to Erie Trails

The Village posts all public meetings on five downtown bulletin boards. It also advertises all public hearings in the local paper, *The Sunbury News*. It distributes a news release following each Council meeting as well as for various special events. The Village maintains a web site so a variety of information and forms are available online. A monthly newsletter is created, posted, and distributed electronically and via the web site.

Budgeting

Income

As a small Village, Galena must consider its funding mechanisms and ability to provide services to its growing residential and commercial base. Historically, the Village has been funded via the following:

- 1% income tax;
- 2 mill-property tax levy;
- Subdivision fees;
- Zoning fees;
- Sewer fees;
- Grants; and,
- Facility rental fees.

The Village also receives the following funds but has no control over the amounts and often no knowledge of the timing or amounts to be awarded:

- License and permissive tax (.8 mill state gasoline and car registration tax);
- Inheritance tax (state tax);
- Highway fund (state tax);
- Municipal telecommunication tax (state tax); and,
- County real property tax rollback reimbursement.

Currently, all expenses are funded from the general fund except sewer services which are funded from the sewer utility fund. The Village has been successful in acquiring Community Block Development Grants (CDBG) which are awarded for capital improvements in lower- to middle-income communities. The Village has also successfully received grant funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Preservation Parks of Delaware County.

Expenditures

In purchasing the old Galena United Methodist Church for a municipal building; planning to build a new wastewater treatment plant; and, costs associated with several sewer-related lawsuits, the Village has used a good percentage of its approximately \$1 million budget.

As with any service organization, a large percentage of the budget is devoted to personnel and benefits. Thirty-two percent of Galena's budget is devoted to personnel. The Village offers few benefits and employs several part-time employees and two full-time employees. Twenty-eight percent is devoted to the wastewater system operation.

The Village's expenditures are allocated as follows:

32 % - personnel;

28 % - sewer operating;

26% - contractual services;

9 % - operating;

4 % - maintenance; and,

1 % - special events.

Public Services

Currently, the following municipal services are provided to residents (most by the Village and some by other entities):

- Street maintenance such as street, signs, traffic lights, and street light construction, repair, and snow plowing;
- Park, trail, and public open space management such as construction, maintenance, mowing, painting, equipment installation and replacement, and monitoring;

- Seasonal limb removal and chipping;
- Wastewater treatment, plant, and collection system construction and maintenance, monitoring, reporting, compliance, and billing;
- Storm water collection system construction, maintenance, and monitoring;
- Municipally-contracted residential trash services;
- Information services such as a web site and monthly newsletter;
- Subdivision, zoning, and property maintenance planning, regulation, administration, and enforcement;
- Public records maintenance;
- Safety services (currently handled by the Delaware County Emergency Services, Delaware County Sheriff, Delaware County Health Department, and the BST&G Fire District);
- Water services provided by Del-Co Water; and,
- Cemetery (provided by Berkshire Township).

To discuss services, we evaluated residents' priorities for services. Residents expect to have ingress and egress, engage in basic household processes, and do these all safely. We believe the priorities are as follows:

- 1. Street maintenance, wastewater treatment, storm sewer, and floodplain management (other utilities are handled privately in Galena);
- 2. Safety;
- 3. Maintain property values via land use management (zoning, subdivision code regulations, and property maintenance regulations), public land management, trash collection, and parks and recreation; and,
- 4. Cemeteries, expanded parks and recreation services, and expanded safety services.